

V A R

If the learned would not sometimes submit to the ignorant; the old to the weakness of the young; there would be nothing but everlasting variance in the world. *Swift.*

Many bleed,
By shameful variance betwixt man and man. *Thomson.*

VARIATION. *n. f.* [*variatio*, Lat. *variation*, French.]

1. Change; mutation; difference from itself.
After much variation of opinions, the prisoner was acquitted of treason, but by most voices found guilty of felony. *Hayu.*
The operation of agents will easily admit of intention and remission, but the essences of things are conceived not capable of any such variation. *Locke.*
The fame of our writers is confined to these two islands, and it is hard it should be limited in time as much as place, by the perpetual variations of our speech. *Swift.*
There is but one common matter, which is diversified by accidents; and the same numerical quantity, by variations of texture, may constitute successively all kinds of body. *Bent.*
2. Difference; change from one to another.
In some other places are more females born than males; which, upon this variation of proportion, I recommend to the curious. *Grant's Bill of Mortality.*
Each sea had its peculiar shells, and the same variation of soils; this tract affording such a terrestrial matter as is proper for the formation of one sort of shell-fish; that of another. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*
3. Successive change.
Sir Walter Blunt,
Stain'd with the variation of each foil
Betwixt that Holmedon and this seat of ours. *Shaksp.*
4. [In grammar.] Change of termination of nouns.
The rules of grammar, and useful examples of the variation of words, and the peculiar form of speech, are often appointed to be repeated. *Watts's Improv. of the Mind.*
5. Change in natural phenomena.
The duke run a long course of calm prosperity, without any visible eclipse or wane in himself, amidst divers variations in others. *Watson's Life of Buckingham.*
6. Deviation.
If we admit a variation from the state of his creation, that variation must be necessarily after an eternal duration, and therefore within the compass of time. *Hale.*
I may seem sometimes to have varied from his sense; but the greatest variations may be fairly deduced from him. *Dryd.*
7. Variation of the compass; deviation of the magnetick needle from an exact parallel with the meridian.

VARIETIES. *adj.* [*varietus*, Latin.] Diseased with dilation.
There are instances of one vein only being various, which may be destroyed by tying it above and below the dilation. *Sharpe.*

TO VARIATE. *v. a.* [*variatus*, school Latin.] To diversify; to stain with different colours.
The shells are filled with a white spar, which variegates and adds to the beauty of the stone. *Woodward on Fossils.*
They had fountains of variegated marble in their rooms. *Arb.*
Ladies like variegated tulips show;
'Tis to the changes half the charms we owe:
Such happy spots the nice admirers take,
Fine by defect, and delicately weak. *Pope's Epist.*

VARIATION. *n. f.* [*variatio*, Latin.] Diversity of colours.
Plant your choice tulips in natural earth, somewhat impoverished with very fine sand, else they will soon lose their variegations. *Everhart's Kalend.*

VARIETY. *n. f.* [*varietas*, Fr. *varietas*, Latin.]

1. Change; succession of one thing to another; intermixture of one thing with another.
All sorts are here that all th' earth yields;
Variety without end. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Variety is nothing else but a continued novelty. *South.*
If the sun's light consisted of but one sort of rays, there would be but one colour in the whole world, nor would it be possible to produce any new colour by reflections or refractions; and by consequence that the variety of colours depends upon the composition of light. *Newton's Opticks.*
2. One thing of many by which variety is made. In this sense it has a plural.
The inclosed warmth, which the earth hath in itself, stirred up by the heat of the sun, assisteth nature in the speedier procreation of those varieties, which the earth bringeth forth. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*
3. Difference; dissimilitude.
There is a variety in the tempers of good men, with relation to the different impressions they receive from different objects of charity. *F. Atterbury.*
4. Variation; deviation; change from a former state.
It were a great vanity to reject those reasons drawn from the nature of things, or to go about to answer those reasons by suppositions of a variety in things, from what they now appear. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

VARIOUS. *adj.* [*varius*, Latin.]

1. Different; several; manifold.

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Then were they known to men by various names,
And various idols, through the heathen world. *Milton.*

2. Changeable; uncertain; unfixed; unlike itself.
The names of mixed modes want standards in nature, whereby to adjust their signification; therefore they are very various and doubtful. *Locke.*

3. Unlike each other.
He in derision sets
Upon their tongues a various spirit,
To raise quite out their native language.
Vast crowds of vanquish'd nations march along,
Various in arms, in habit, and in tongue.
Various of temper, as of face or frame,
Each individual: his great end the same.
So many and so various laws are given.
4. Variegated; diversified.
Herbs sudden flower'd,
Opening their various colours. *Milton.*
VARIOUSLY. *adv.* [*from various*.] In a various manner.
Having been variously tossed by fortune, directed his course to a safe harbour. *Bacon.*
Various objects from the sense,
Variously representing.
Those various squadrons, variously design'd,
Each vessel freighted with a several wind;
Each squadron waiting for a several wind;
All find but one, to burn them in the road. *Dryden.*
Different elements, while they repair the fluids and solids, act variously upon them according to their different natures. *Arbuth.*

VARIX. [*Lat. varix*, Fr.] A dilatation of the vein.
In ulcers of the legs, accompanied with varices or dilations of the veins, the varix can only be assisted by the bandage. *Sharpe.*

VARLET. *n. f.* [*varlet*, old French, now *violet*.]

1. Anciently a servant or footman.
Such lords ill example do give,
Where varlets and drabs so may live. *Tupper's Husbandry.*
They spy'd
A varlet running towards them hastily. *Spenser.*
2. A scoundrel; a rascal. This word has deviated from its original meaning, as *var* in Latin.
I am the veriest varlet that ever chew'd. *Shaksp. Hen. IV.*
Where didst thou leave these varlets? *Shaksp. Ham.*
Thou, varlet, dost thy master's gains devour;
Thou milk'st his ewes, and often twice an hour.
When the Roman legions were in a disposition to mutiny, an impudent varlet, who was a private centinel, resolv'd to try the power of his eloquence. *Addison.*

VARETRY. *n. f.* [*from varlet*.] Rabble; croud; populace.
Shall they hoist me up,
And show me to the shouting variety
Of censuring Rome? *Shaksp. Ant. and Cleo.*

VARNISH. *n. f.* [*varnis*, Fr. *varnis*, Latin.]

1. A matter laid upon wood, metal, or other bodies, to make them shine.
We'll put on those shall praise your excellence,
And set a double varnish on the fame. *Shaksp.*
The fame of Cicero had not borne her age so well, if it had not been joined with some vanity? Like unto varnish, that makes ceilings not only shine, but last. *Bacon.*
This blue varnish that the green endears,
The sacred rust of twice ten hundred years. *Pope.*
2. Cover; palliation.
To VARNISH. *v. a.* [*varnisher*, *varnis*, Fr. from the noun.]
1. To cover with something shining.
O vanity!
To set a pearl in steel so meanly varnished. *Sidney.*
Clamber not you up to the casements,
Nor thrust your head into the publick street,
To gaze on christian fools with varnish'd faces. *Shaksp.*
2. To cover; to conceal with something ornamental.
Specious deeds on earth, which glory excites;
Or close ambition varnish'd o'er with zeal. *Milton.*
His manly heart was still above
Dissembled hate, or varnish'd love. *Dryd.*
Men espouse the well-endow'd opinions in fashion, and then seek arguments to make good their beauty, or varnish over and cover their deformity. *Locke's Works.*
3. To palliate; to hide with colour of rhetoric.
The ills they act, and all the world endure. *Denham.*
Cato's voice was ne'er employ'd
To clear the guilty, and to varnish crimes. *Addison.*
Speak the plain truth, and varnish not your crimes! *Philips.*

VARNISHER. *n. f.* [*from varnish*.]

1. One whose trade is to varnish.
An oil obtained of common oil, may probably be of good use to furgeons and varnishers. *Boyle's Works.*
2. A dissembler; an adorer.
Modest dulness lurks in thought's disguise;
Thou varnisher of fools, and cheat of all the wife. *Pope.*

VARELS.

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VARELS. *n. f.* [*varveller*, Fr.] Silver rings about the leg of a hawk, on which the owner's name is engraved. *Dist.*

TO VARY. *v. a.* [*vario*, Lat. *varior*, French.]

1. To change; to make unlike itself.
Let your ceaseless change
Vary to our great creator still new praise. *Milton.*
2. To change to something else.
Gods that never change their state,
Vary oft their love and hate. *Waller.*
We are to vary the customs, according to the time and country where the scene of action lies. *Dryden.*
The master's hand, which to the life can trace
The airs, the lines, and features of the face;
May, with a free and bolder stroke, express
A vary'd posture, or a flatt'ring dress. *Sir J. Denham.*
He varies ev'ry shape with ease,
And tries all forms that may Pomona please. *Pope.*
3. To make of different kinds.
God hath divided the genius of men according to the different affairs of the World; and varied their inclinations, according to the variety of actions to be performed. *Brevint.*
4. To diversify; to variegate.
God hath here
Vary'd his bounty so with new delights. *Milton.*

TO VARY. *v. n.*

1. To be changeable; to appear in different forms.
Darkling stands
The varying shore o' th' world. *Shaksp. Ant. and Cleo.*
So varied he, and yet unaccountably the public constitutions of nations vary. *Collier on Pride.*
2. To be unlike each other.
Those who made laws, had their minds polished above the vulgar: and yet unaccountably the public constitutions of nations vary. *Collier on Pride.*
3. To alter; to become unlike itself.
He had a strange interchanging of large and unexpected pardons, with several executions; which could not be imputed to any inconsistency, but to a principle he had set unto himself, that he would vary and try both ways in turn. *Bac.*
That each from other differs, first confess;
Next, that he varies from himself no less. *Pope's Epist.*
4. To deviate; to depart.
The crime consists in violating the law, and varying from the right rule of reason. *Locke.*
5. To succeed each other.
While fear and anger, with alternate grace,
Paint in her breast, and vary in her face. *Addison's Cato.*
6. To disagree; to be at variance.
In judgment of her substance thus they vary,
And vary thus in judgment of her feat;
For some her chair up to the brain do carry,
Some sink it down into the stomach's heat. *Sir J. Davies.*
7. To shift colours.
Will the falcon stooping from above,
Smit with her varying plumage, spare the dove?
Admires the jay the insect's gilded wings? *Pope.*

VARY. *n. f.* [*from the verb*.] Change; alteration. Not in use.

Such smiling rogues as these soothe every passion;
Renege, affirm, and turn their halcyon beaks,
With every gale and vary of their masters. *Shaksp. Ham.*

VASCULAR. *adj.* [*from vasculum*, Latin.]

1. Consisting of vessels; full of vessels.
Nutrition of the solids is performed by the circulating liquid in the smallest vascular solids. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*
2. VASCULIFEROUS. *adj.* [*vasculum* and *fero*, Latin.] Such plants as have, besides the common calyx, a peculiar vessel to contain the seed, sometimes divided into cells; and these have always a monopetalous flower, either uniform or difform. *Quincy.*

VASE. *n. f.* [*vas*, Fr. *vasa*, Latin.] A vessel; generally a vessel rather for show than use.

The toilet stands unveil'd,
Each silver vase in mystick order laid. *Pope.*

VASSAL. *n. f.* [*vassal*, Fr. *vassallo*, Italian.]

1. One who holds by the will of a superior lord.
Every petty prince, vassal to the emperor, can coin what money he pleases. *Swift's Short View of Ireland.*
The vassals are invited to bring in their complaints to the viceroy, who imprisons and chastises their masters. *Addison.*
2. A subject; a dependant.
She cannot content the lord with performance of his discipline, that hath at her side a vassal, whom Satan hath made his vicegerent, to cross whatsoever the faithful should do. *Hosker, b. viii. §. 34.*
Such as they thought fit for labour, they received as vassals; but imparted not the benefit of laws, but every one made his will a law unto his own vassal. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*
The common people were free subjects to the king, not slaves and vassals to their pretended lords. *Sir J. Davies.*
The mind hath not reason to remember, that passions ought to be her vassals, not her masters. *Raleigh.*

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Vassals of his anger, when the scourge
Inexorable, and the torturing hour
Calls us to penance. *Milton.*

As all his vassals eagerly desir'd;
With mind averse, he rather underwent
His people's will, than gave his own consent. *Dryden.*
He subjugated a king, and called him his vassal. *Baker.*

3. A servant; one who acts by the will of another.
I am his fortune's vassal, and I fend him
The greatness he has got. *Shaksp. Ant. and Cleop.*

4. A slave; a low wretch.
Thou swear'st thy Gods in vain
O vassal! miserable! *Shaksp. K. Lear.*

VASSALLAGE. *n. f.* [*vasselage*, Fr. from *vassal*.] The state of a vassal; tenure at will; servitude; slavery; dependance.
He renounc'd the vassallage
Of Rome again. *Fairy Queen.*
All my pow'rs do their bestowing lose,
Like vassallage at unawares encountering
The eye of majesty. *Shaksp. Troilus and Cressida.*
They would have brought the Achaeans from the condition of followers and dependents unto meet vassallage. *Raleigh.*
Let us not then pursue,
By force impossible, by leave obtain'd
Unacceptable, though in heav'n our state
Of splendid vassallage. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Curs'd vassallage,
First idoliz'd till love's hot fire be o'er;
Then slaves to those who courted us before. *Dryden.*

VAST. *adj.* [*vastus*, Fr. *vastus*, Latin.]

1. Large; great.
What the parliament meant to attempt with those vast numbers of men, every day levied. *Clarendon, book i.*
That is an ample and capacious mind, which takes in vast and sublime ideas without pain. *Watts.*
His open stores,
Though vast, were little to his ample heart. *Thomson.*
2. Viciously great; enormously extensive or capacious.
The vicious language is vast, and gaping, swelling, and irregular; when it contends to be high, full of rock, mountain, and pointedness. *B. Johnson.*
They view'd the vast unmeasurable abyss. *Milton.*
Others with vast Typhoean rage more fell,
Rend up rocks. *Milton.*

VAST. *n. f.* [*vastum*, Latin.] An empty waste.
They shook hands, as over a vast; and embrac'd, as from the ends of oppos'd winds. *Shaksp. Ham.*
Through the vast of heav'n it founded.
The wat'ry vast, *Pope.*
Secure of storms, your royal brother pass.

VASTATION. *n. f.* [*vastatio*, from *vasto*, Latin.] Waste; depopulation.
This wild-fire made the saddest vastations, in the many fatal outrages which these eager contentions occasion. *Decay of Piety.*

VASTIDITY. *n. f.* [*vastitas*, Lat. from *vastus*.] Wideness; immensity. A barbarous word.
Perpetual durance, *Shaksp. Ham.*
Through all the world's vastidity,
VASTLY. *adv.* [*from vast*.] Greatly; to a great degree.
Holland's resolving upon its own defence, without our share in the war, would leave us to enjoy the trade of the world, and thereby grow vastly both in strength and treasures. *Temple.*
It is vastly the concern of government, and of themselves too, whether they be morally good or bad. *South.*

VASTNESS. *n. f.* [*from vast*.] Immensity; enormous greatness.
Behemoth, biggest born of earth, upheav'd
His vastness. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
She by the rocks compell'd to stay behind,
Is by the vastness of her bulk confin'd. *Waller.*
When I compare this little performance with the vastness of my subject, methinks I have brought but a cockle-shell of water from the ocean. *Clarendon.*
Aristo observed not moderation in the vastness of his draught. *Dryden.*
Hence we may discover the cause of the vastness of the ocean. *Bentley's Sermons.*

VASTY. *adj.* [*from vast*.] Large; enormously great.
I can call spirits from the vasty deep. *Shaksp. Ham.*

VAT. *n. f.* [*vat*, Dutch, *fat*, Saxon.] A vessel in which liquors are kept in the immature state.
Plumpy Bacchus, with pink cyne,
In thy vats our cares be drown'd. *Shaksp.*
Let him produce his vats and tubs in opposition to heaps of arms and standards. *Addison.*
Wouldst thou thy vats with gen'rous juice should froth,
Respect thy orchards. *Philips.*

VATICIDE. *n. f.* [*vates* and *cido*, Latin.] A murderer of poets.
The catiff vaticide conceiv'd a prayer. *Pope's Dunciad.*

TO VATICINATE. *v. n.* [*vaticiner*, Latin.] To prophesy; to practise prediction.
The most admitted of all prophane prophets, whose predictions have been so much cried up, did vaticinate here. *Howel.*

VAYA'SOUR.